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**ADVANCED JUDICIAL ACADEMY FEATURES EXPERTS FROM
AROUND THE GLOBE**

About 75 judges from across Illinois will gather in Champaign next week for an intensive five-day educational conference examining the underpinnings of evidence and when and why to take facts seriously.

The conference is the second biennial session of the Advanced Judicial Academy, established by the Supreme Court of Illinois as part of its Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois judges.

International and national experts in the fields of law, neuroscience, psychology and statistics will be among the faculty, including William Twining from London who has developed a global reputation through his scholarly writings and work in Sudan, Tanzania, Hong Kong, India, Uganda and other international locales.

The title of the conference is “Taking Facts Seriously,” based on the groundbreaking article by Mr. Twining in which he questions traditional legal processes for determining fact, including the role of advocacy in distorting fact. Prof. Twining, now at University College, London, will bring participants up to date on his essay when he lectures Monday afternoon.

“The premise behind a conference like this is that we presume judges know the rules of evidence,” said Justice Susan F. Hutchinson of the Illinois Appellate Court, who is chairperson of the committee which has been assembling the conference for the past two years. “What we don’t necessarily know is how the rules came to be established as a body of law. This conference gives us a chance to look behind the rules—which we rarely have the time to do—and find out some of the historical and practical aspects and underpinning of the rules.

“We will look at how that history and other influences—psychology, anthropology, statistics—how these disciplines play into how facts are used at trial, how they are developed, how they are processed and how they are affected by advocacy in the entire trial process.”

A key premise behind the program is to try to help judges recognize when and why “facts” presented as evidence may not be true.

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“If, after all, you have a faulty set of facts even if you the law you apply is right, you could have a faulty result,” said Justice Hutchinson.

Presentations will include the psychology behind jury deliberation and whether and why legal instructions given to juries by judges are followed by them or disregarded. Shari Seidman Diamond, Howard J. Trienens Professor of Law at Northwestern University School of Law, will present that program Tuesday morning. She has done path-breaking research on jury deliberations, having witnessed actual deliberations with permission of the Arizona Supreme Court.

A program on Wednesday, which includes Joseph Buckley, a forensic interviewer with John E. Reid & Associates in Chicago, will examine interrogation techniques and try to help judges distinguish between confessions that are true and those that are false. Combined with presentations by Saul Kassin of Williams College and Richard A. Leo of the University of California, Irvine, the program will attempt to examine, among other issues, the psychology of confessions and why persons confess falsely.

On Thursday, Maria L. Ontiveros of the University of San Francisco School of Law will present issues of gender, ethnicity and class in evaluating the credibility of witnesses. Also on Thursday, the program will deal with the problems and issues in eyewitness identification.

Gary L. Wells, a professor of psychology at Iowa State University, whose years of research into eyewitness identification have been the groundwork for a movement to change how traditional police lineups are conducted, will give an interactive presentation Thursday as to the pitfalls of identification.

Mr. Wells’ research is one of the underpinnings for the Illinois legislature’s approval on Thursday (May 29) of conducting experimental non-traditional lineups as part of a sweeping death penalty reform package.

Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will welcome the participants and faculty with remarks scheduled for around noon on Monday, June 2. She has a special interest in the conference. Before ascending to the Supreme Court, Justice Garman was chair of the Educational Committee which helped develop the concept for the Academy. Prof. Andrew D. Leipold, of the College of Law at the University of Illinois, also will make welcoming remarks.

The conference, which runs from June 2 through June 6, is a cooperative effort by the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts under the directorship of Cynthia Y. Cobbs and the University of Illinois College of Law. The Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan and the concept of the Illinois Advanced Judicial Academy were developed by the Committee on Education of the Illinois Judicial Conference.

“Back in 1998, we began to think about the concept of a summer program for more experienced judges to energize them and impart new information in a retreat type of setting,” said Justice

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Garman, who had been a member of the Education Committee since 1990 until her appointment to the Court in 2000. “We wanted a program where judges would be away from the daily demands of the courtroom and give them a chance to be in a learning and educational environment where they could study an emerging field in depth.”

The first Academy two years ago was a five-day conference on breakthrough developments in science and how they intersect with law and included faculty in multidisciplines dealing with DNA, the Human Genome Project and cloning.

The Academy is one prong of an ambitious education program for judges in Illinois. The program includes an Education Conference held over two, 2 ½-day sessions every two years for every judge in the state; a week-long, intensive orientation program every year for new judges; a mentoring program; two and three-day seminars; and mini-seminars. These programs are operated under the authority of the constitutionally mandated Illinois Judicial Conference and are approved by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Through its Special Committee on Capital Litigation, the Court also oversees three-day educational conferences for judges who have or are likely to try capital cases. “The Academy is an opportunity to give judges insight into issues they don’t usually have the opportunity or time to examine,” said Justice Hutchinson. “You can get some of this experience in Masters Degree programs for Judges in places like Virginia and Oxford; but not everybody has the time to do that. Even at those programs, you’re learning the federal system of laws or the law of other states.

“The Academy is an opportunity to get speakers here in Illinois comparable to the speakers you would find at other national and international programs, and apply the issues and the law to the law and the environment we have to work with on a day-to-day basis in Illinois courts.”

In addition to formal presentations at the University of Illinois College of Law and at the Robert Allerton Park and Conference Center, the participating judges will be broken into smaller groups for discussions on hypothetical problems involving practical issues occurring in Illinois courts and at trial.

The media is invited to attend the welcoming remarks and lectures. Attendance at the group breakdown discussions is generally limited to the participants.

Justice Garman will be available for interviews around the noon hour on Monday. Justice Hutchinson, other members of the planning committee, and participants will be available throughout the week. Interviews with guest faculty will be accorded with their wishes.

Media wishing to attend any part or all of the sessions are encouraged to contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary of the Illinois Supreme Court, through his Chicago office at 312-793-2323.